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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 2800**

**PATENT**

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box AF, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

20231.

*January 28, 2003*  
Date

*[Signature]*  
Ayesha S. Wilks

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*[Handwritten: #23, Amdt F (AIE), D Smalls-Logan, 2/24/03]*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Attorney Docket No. : 501082.04 (98-0616.03)

Serial No. : 09/652,993

Group Art Unit : 2815

Filed : August 31, 2000

Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A  
CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Box AF  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 4, 76, 77, and 81 as follows:

*Sub G1*  
*F1*  
4. (Four times Amended) A method of passivating a conductive material,  
comprising:  
providing said conductive material, wherein said conductive material has  
an ability to associate with oxygen; and